

February 28, 2023

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Thomas Buckley. I am a resident of Avon and a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. My congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), a broad-based organization of 49 faith institutions working together on this issue.

I am writing in support of HB 6633. This bill will make our suburbs more inclusive places to live and contribute to economic growth and revitalization of our cities. Modeled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, this bill has the potential to generate over:

- 240,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units over 10 years
- 63,000 jobs (full time equivalents sustained for ten years)
- \$9.8 Billion in state and local tax revenue
- \$47 Billion in income for Connecticut residents

Connecticut has a serious lack of housing problem. Growing Together CT, a consortium of organizations coordinated by Open Communities Alliance released a poll exploring opinions around solutions to Connecticut's housing affordability and segregation challenges. It found substantial support for the notion that "there should be housing options in every town for residents of all incomes" (73% of respondents) and "when towns won't act to make housing more affordable, the state government should so that Connecticut doesn't get too expensive for everyone" (61% of respondents).

The poll also revealed broad-based support for creating new housing to prevent housing displacement and suburban sprawl while reducing the overall cost of housing, encouraging walkability, and creating mixed income and racially diverse communities. This poll shows that Connecticut residents know we have a housing crisis and they want the state legislature to act on it. Leaving this issue to the 169 fiefdoms that make up Connecticut's towns is one reason why we have this problem . . . "NIMBY" is alive and well in Connecticut.

This bill is not only the right thing to do to address Connecticut's affordable housing and housing segregation crises, it is also the smart thing to do to boost our economy overall, especially as we emerge from a global health pandemic. This bill will provide of a set of tools and laws that make sure our zoning and planning systems are fair and equitable. Town government is NOT the answer to every issue.

I urge you to pass HB 6633 as initial steps to addressing Connecticut's severe housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Thomas Buckley - Avon, CT